

MR. I. C. CHACKO : No, but arrangements have been made to use the junghar to ferry passengers in the mornings and evenings when there is rush of passengers.

Ascu plants.

217. ***MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Ascu plants with Government ;
- (b) the quantity of timber treated in those plants for the current year till 30th Edavom ;
- (c) the expenditure incurred to maintain those plants for the same period ; and
- (d) the quantity of timber (ascued during the year) sold, if any, and the amount of sale proceeds ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : (a) Four, of which only three are being worked.

(b) 13,352 c. ft. of timber and 27,224 sq. ft. of bamboo matting.

(c) About Rs. 2,650.

(d) Ascu treated timber—9344 c. ft.

Ascu treated teak wood poles Nos. 1168.

Teak wood cross arms Nos. 400.

Bamboo matting 27,224 sq. ft.

Sale proceeds Rs. 16,071.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know the amount of ascu treated timber sold in Travancore and sold out of Travancore ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : Practically nothing has been sold outside Travancore.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know the amount of the timber sold privately in Travancore ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : I claim notice.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether the member is satisfied with the efficacy of the ascu treatment of timber ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : Yes, Sir.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether the member is aware of a pamphlet issued from Dehra Dun to propagandise that ascu treatment is not efficacious ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : Yes, Sir. But they are conducting further experiments on the matter.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether the Conservator has noticed that the ascu treated timber, tried as an experimental measure, is mostly eaten by white ants ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : Yes, Sir. That was perhaps because the treatment was not done properly.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI : May I know whether it is due to want of demand or want of supply that ascu treated timber is not supplied outside Travancore ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : It is because of the want of supply.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether any ascu treatment plant has been kept out of use?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : Yes, Sir: 1.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know what was the necessity for this, when the Conservator has stated that he is very much satisfied with the efficacy of the treatment and that there is a large demand for treated timber?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : Sir, I did not say that all the timber is required for the departments of the State. There is very little demand from the departments for materials treated with ascu. Therefore one plant is not used.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know, Sir whether there is no demand for ascu treated timber because the people are not satisfied with the efficacy of the treatment?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : No, Sir.

MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : മനു, ഓ മെ രൂപയ്ക്കു തടിവി റാതായിട്ടു പറയുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇതിൽ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റി കോടുത്തും ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കോടുത്തും ഒഴിച്ചു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക് എത്ര രൂപയ്ക്കു തടികൊടുത്തു എന്നു പറയാമോ?

RAO BAHADUR T. V. VENKITESWARA AIYAR : അത് ഇപ്പോൾ പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. എങ്കിലും അധികം കാണുകയില്ല.

The Mint.

218. * **MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether they are considering the question of abolishing the Mint; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

MR. R. RAMA VARIAR : (a) No. The Mint opened temporarily is proposed to be closed only temporarily at the end of Dhanu 1117.

(b) The minting of the entire stock of blanks for the new copper coins is expected to be completed by that time.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : May I know whether some 2 years back Government bought some machinery for the manufacture of blanks or dies?

MR. R. RAMA VARIAR : The question is regarding the abolition of the Mint and not regarding the purchase of plant machinery.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Sir; my point is this, I have asked about the abolition of the Mint. Two years ago I think it was during the time of Rao Bahadur Rengaswami Aiyar that the department got down some machinery for the manufacture of blanks and dies, at a cost of Rs. 40,000. I understand that even the package containing the machinery has not been opened.

MR. R. RAMA VARIAR : Sir, a separate building is required for fitting up the new machinery.

Vol. XVIII. No. 7.